

Message Text

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43

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 MC-02 TRSE-00 EB-11

COME-00 SS-15 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 AID-20 IGA-02 DRC-01 /128 W

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P R 171625Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3215

DOD WASHINGTON DC

CNO WASHINGTON DC

CHINFO WASHINGTON DC

USIA WASHINGTON PRIORITY

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENGLAND

COMSIXTHFLT

USS THOMAS J. GARY

USDAO VALLETTA MALTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 5421

E.O. 11652: ADS UPON RELEASE TO PRESS

TAGS: MASS, TS

SUBJECT: PRESS RELEASE CONCERNING TRANSFER OF THOMAS J. GARY
TO TUNISIA

1. (C) WE HAVE PREPARED AND HAVE CLEARED WITH GOT FOLLOWING
PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE IN ENGLISH, FRENCH AND ARABIC.

QUOTE: THE USS THOMAS J. GARY, A DESTROYER ESCORT, FORMERLY
HOMEPORTED IN KEY WEST, FLA. HAS BEEN PURCHASED BY THE GOVERNMENT
OF TUNISIA FROM THE UNITED STATES AND WILL BE COMMISSIONED IN THE
TUNISIAN NAVY DURING CEREMONIES AT BIZERTE, TUNISIA ON OCTOBER
22. THE GARY IS CURRENTLY UNDERGOING MAINTENANCE AND RESUPPLY
AT THE U.S. NAVAL FACILITY IN CHARLESTON, NORTH CAROLINA.
THE SHIP WILL DEPART THE UNITED STATES ON OCTOBER 5 AND ARRIVE
IN TUMUS ON OCTOBER 20. THREE OFFICERS AND THIRTY-THREE SEAMEN
FROM THE TUNISIAN NAVY WILL BE TRAINING WITH THE CREW OF THE USS
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GARY FOR APPROXIMATELY 30 DAYS AND WILL ASSIST IN SAILING THE

VESSEL ON ITS TRANSIT FROM THE UNITED STATES TO TUNIS. THE USS GARY WILL BE RENAMED "PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA" AND WILL BECOME THE LARGEST SHIP IN THE TUNISIAN FLEET. UNQUOTE.

2. (U) BOTH WE AND GOT BELIEVE EARLY RELEASE IN WASHINGTON AND TUNIS IS DESIRABLE TO AVOID UNDUE PRESS SPECULATION. FIRST INCREMENT OF TUNISIAN CREW ALREADY IN U.S. SECOND INCREMENT ARRIVES SEPTEMBER 24-25.

3. SUGGEST STORY BE RELEASED SIMULTANEOUSLY WASHINGTON/TUNIS AT 1700 GMT SEPTEMBER 21.

4. IN EVENT OF PREMATURE DISCLOSURE SUGGEST STATE AND DOD SPOKESMEN LIMIT REMARKS TO LANGUAGE PARAGRAPH 1.

5. APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS SOONEST.
SEELYE

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NNN

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